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Inventor(s): Tuttle



ANTI-THEFT METHOD FOR DETECTING THE UNAUTHORIZED  
OPENING OF CONTAINERS AND BAGGAGE

ABSTRACT

The present invention introduces a method for protecting against the unauthorized opening of shipping containers in a first embodiment. A simple trip-wire or magnetic circuit associated with a shipping container provides continuity, which is detected electrically. Simply, if continuity is disabled by a forced entry of the container, electrical detection means, such as a radio-frequency-identification (RFID) tag, will alert the owner or monitoring station. The trip-wire concept would require the replacing of a broken trip wire (resulting from forced entry), while the magnetic circuit concept can be reused repetitively. <sup>IN A Second Embodiment a</sup> ~~A second embodiment also~~ comprises a magnetic circuit approach in which the magnetic circuit and the detection device (RFID tag) are embedded into the shipping article during manufacturing. The preferred detection device, an RFID tag, could also be a battery backed transceiver type on which a replaceable or rechargeable battery could be mounted on the inside of the shipping container during manufacturing. The RFID tag would communicate with an interrogator unit, which could be connected to a host computer. The interrogator and/or the host computer and/or other alarm devices would then monitor the shipping container's status (opened or closed).